

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #60-8 Building Date: 1860's

Building Name: Drury Mansion

Location: 6101 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description

The Drury Mansion stands in a level area south of Ammendale Normal Institute, in a grove of pines and maples. It is accessible by an unpaved lane which runs south from St. Joseph's Chapel. The building consists of a two-story frame hip-roofed Greek Revival style dwelling, with additions on the rear facade. The main block is five bays by two bays, with entrance in the central bay of the five-bay main east facade. Entrance is through a double door with six-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights over wainscot panels. The three center bays are sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch; windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain board sills; the central second story window on the east facade is embellished by flanking 2/2 double-hung-sash sidelights. The horizontal board siding is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the hipped roof is covered with gray shingle. There is one wide corbelled brick chimney, situated longitudinally in the north plane of the hipped roof. The building rests on parged brick foundations; there is no basement. Attached to the west facade, and extending flush with the north facade of the main block, is a lower two-story, gable-roofed wing with an interior chimney at its west gable end. Built onto the south third of the west (rear) facade is another wing, cut into a slope so that its floor is at a lower level than that of the main block.

Significance

The Drury Mansion is a large Greek Revival style dwelling, built on a tract known as Spraddock's Forest and now part of the Ammendale Institute property. Although the house is in deteriorating condition, it is an unusual example in Prince George's County of a full-facade (five-bay) central-hall-with-flanking-double-parlours plan dwelling. For many years a neighborhood school was operated in this building. The Drury Mansion, also known as "the Villa", was constructed in the early 1860's by William P. Drury. In the construction of this house, Drury utilized features of a style which was already on the decline, and being superseded by the Italianate and late Victorian house styles. In 1874 Drury's son sold the house and 130 acres to Daniel Ammen, Admiral, U.S. Navy. For many years, Ammen's mother-in-law operated a neighborhood school in the Drury house. In 1880, Admiral Ammen sold twenty acres of the Drury farmland to the Brothers of the Christian Schools for the establishment of a Catholic school and Novitiate. This was the beginning of the Ammendale Normal Institute. The neighborhood school was operated until circa 1889, when Ammen sold the house and eleven acres to the Christian Brothers, who took over the operation of the school for "externs". For the last decade of the century, this school was operated in another farmhouse on the land, but in 1903 under Brother Tobias, it was reopened in the Drury mansion. This school continued to operate in the Drury house until circa 1920. For some time after that, the house served as the chaplain's residence; it is now rented to tenants who work on the Ammendale Institute property. It is an important and rare surviving example of a modest and large late Greek Revival style farmhouse.

Acreage: 92.41 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Drury Mansionand/or common Drury Mansion or "The Villa"

2. Location

street & number 6101 Ammendale Road not for publicationcity, town Beltsville Ammendale vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ammendale Normal Institute (Christian Brothers)street & number Ammendale Normal Institute telephone no.: 776-7443city, town Beltsville state and zip code Maryland 20705

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber JWB#14street & number Main Street folio 91city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Nonedate federal state county localdepository for survey records city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#60-8

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Drury Mansion stands in a level area south of Ammendale Normal Institute, in a grove of pines and maples. It is accessible by an unpaved lane which runs south from St. Joseph's Chapel. The building consists of a two-story frame hip-roofed Greek Revival style dwelling, with additions on the rear (west) facade.

The main block is five bays by two bays, with entrance in the central bay of the five-bay main east facade. Entrance is through a double door (each leaf has two deeply molded panels) with six-pane transom, and four-pane sidelights over wainscot panels. The three center bays are sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch; it rests on a concrete block foundation, and is supported by square (hollow) posts. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with plain board sills; windows on the first story are full-length, longer than those of the second story. The central second story window on the east facade (over the entrance) is embellished by flanking 2/2 double-hung-sash sidelights. There is a central (rear) door in the west facade. The horizontal board siding is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the hipped roof is covered with gray shingle. There is one wide corbelled brick chimney, situated longitudinally in the north plane of the hipped roof, in the wall which divides the two north parlors. The building rests on parged brick foundations; there is no basement.

Interior of the main block consists of a central stairhall with two parlors on each side. The staircase rises along the south wall of the stairhall, turns at a small rear landing, and turns again to the second story. (The rear of the stairhall has been enclosed to form a closet, thus partially boxing the staircase.) The stair has a heavy Greek Revival style turned newel, and turned balusters. Molding of door and window surrounds in the main block are probably early twentieth century replacements; most ceilings have been "dropped" by the installation of synthetic panel, although the southeast parlor still has the pressed tin ceiling which dates from its period of use as a classroom. All fireplaces have been closed, and there are no visible mantels.

Attached to the north part of the west (rear) facade, and extending flush with the north facade of the main block, is a lower two-story, two-bay-by-one-bay gable-roofed wing. There is an interior chimney at its west gable end, and a rear entrance in that gable end. This wing has the same asbestos shingle covering as the main block, and rests on a brick foundation. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash, similar to those of the main block.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#60-8

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Local history

Specific dates 1860's

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Drury Mansion is a large hip-roof Greek Revival style dwelling, built on a tract known as Spraddock's Forest and now part of the Ammendale Institute property. Although the house is in deteriorating condition, it is an unusual example in Prince George's County of a full-facade (five-bay) central-hall-with-flanking-double-parlours plan dwelling. For many years a neighborhood school was operated in this building.

The Drury Mansion, also known as "the Villa", was constructed in the early 1860's by William P. Drury.¹ In the construction of this house, Drury utilized features of a style which was already on the decline, and being superseded by the Italianate and late Victorian house styles. Drury, a farmer from the District of Columbia, named his new home "Fairview", and lived there with his large family until his death circa 1871.² The Court of Equity was petitioned to dispose of his property, and in 1874 Drury's son sold the house and 130 acres to Daniel Ammen, Admiral, U.S. Navy. Ammen had in 1869 purchased the nearby farm known as "Happy Home", and resided there until his death in 1898; after he purchased the Drury farm in 1874, his mother-in-law operated a neighborhood school in the Drury house.³

Admiral Ammen was a convert to the Catholic faith. In 1880 he sold twenty acres of the Drury farmland to the Brothers of the Christian Schools for the establishment of a Catholic school and Novitiate. This was the beginning of the Ammendale Normal Institute.⁴

Until 1889, Madame Atocha continued to operate the school at the Drury house, but in that year, Ammen sold the house and eleven acres to the Christian Brothers, who took over the operation of the school for "externs". For the last decade of the century, this school was operated in another farmhouse on the land, but in 1903 under Brother Tobias, it was reopened in the Drury mansion. It was probably at this time that the decorative pressed tin ceilings were installed in the parlour/class-rooms.⁵

Survey No. P.G. #60-8

Cf. Chain of Title

Acreage of nominated property 92.41 acres Tax map #13, parcel 18

Quadrangle name Beltsville, Section F Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission	date	December 1985
street & number	c/o County Planning, MNCPPC	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Maryland

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

PS-2746

#7. Continued

Built onto the south third of the west (rear) facade is another wing, cut into a slope so that its floor is at a lower level than that of the main block. This wing has a shed roof, and rests on a high brick foundation. It is extended farther to the west by a lower shed-roof addition, the west elevation of which consists of large double garage doors. This entire space is used as garage and storage area.

#8 (Continued)

The school for externs continued to operate in the Drury house until circa 1920. For some time after that, the house served as the chaplain's residence; it is now rented to tenants who work on the Ammendale Institute property. It is an important and rare surviving example of a modest and large late Greek Revival style farmhouse.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deed; FS #3:546; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1860's.

2 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1860's; Census for Vansville District, Prince George's County, 1870.

3 Prince George's County Equity #798 (papers not found); Prince George's County Deed RSW #1:138; A History of Beltsville, 1976, pp. 64-72.

4 Cf. P. G. #60-4.

5 Prince George's County Deeds WAJ #1:542; JWB #14:91; The History of the District of Baltimore Brothers of the Christian Schools, 1948, pp. 44-46.

Chain of Title
Drury Mansion
P.G. #60-8

JWB#14:91
27 May 1889
Deed

Daniel Ammen, widower, to trustees of Ammendale Normal Institute, Thomas Mende, Henry Wall, Francis Fitzpatrick, Patrick Brennan, John Howard and Pierre Marcoux (incorporated JWB#5:16), 11.3 acres of land (for \$4,100, part of the land which Ammen acquired from Drury, with improvemtns.

RSW#1:138
6 Apr 1874
Deed

William L. Drury, trustee, to Daniel Ammen, 130 acres, part of Spraddocks Forest (surveyed by Edward Herbert, 1863); William L. Drury was appointed trustee by decree of Equity #798 to sell the real estate of William P. Drury. (Equity papers not found)

FS#3:546
30 Nov 1863
Deed

William A. and Sarah Linthicum, Luther and Ellen Jones, and Emma Jones, and Jonathan and Theresa Waters to William P. Drury of D.C. (Linthicums had purchased part of this property from Jones and Waters, but deed had not been executed, so all join to convey to Drury); for \$6,900, 138 acres of Spraddocks Forest, including part purchased by Linthicum from Jones/Waters, and part from John Bradacamp by CSM#3:175.

CSM#3:175
10 June 1859
Deed

John and Catherine Bradakamp to Samuel and William Linthicum for \$1,497.46, 67 acers of Spraddocks Forest.

P166

AMMENDALE NORMAL IN
114,54 A
P164

PG:60-8

R-R

W S S
5560/647
21 32 A
P C

AMMENDALE
NORMAL INSTITUTE
22 41 A
P B

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' NORMAL
INSTITUTE
24 30 3
513 A
P103

E-1-A

60-8

AMMENDALE NORMAL
INSTITUTE
22 64
P 65

BALTIMORE AVE.

87
2
P 92

P.25

MARYL
EQUIPME
INCORPORA
LOT 1

9772

9396

R-1

P/D
1 45



BELTON
JULIE
COMM ODP
1672

I-1

I-2

C-2

R-R

BRINKMAN
2051 490
1 31 2
P 4



P.G.#60-8

Drury Mansion (The Villa)

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

November 1985

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg. Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#60-8

Drury Mansion (The Villa)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#60-8

Drury Mansion (The Villa)

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

November 1985

West elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#60-8

Drury Mansion (The Villa)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #60-8

Drury Mansion

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

November 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #60-8

Drury Mansion
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #60-8

Drury Mansion
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
November 1985
East detail
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD